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SUBJECT: SERBIAN GOVERNMENT APPOINTS AMBASSADORS TO UNITED STATES,
UN

Summary

1. The Serbian government appointed a new Ambassador to the United States, current deputy chief of mission Vladimir Petrovic and a new Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Feodor Starcevic. Both are close associates of Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic, an indication of his personal interest in developing greater ties with the United States and lobbying for Serbia's International Court of Justice case. End Summary.

New Ambassadors to United States

2. Serbian media announced January 16 that the Serbian government appointed several new Serbian ambassadors at its regular meeting on January 15. Among them are current DCM in Washington Vladimir Petrovic, tapped to be Ambassador to the United States and Feodor Starcevic as Permanent Representative to the UN. Although Starcevic is a long-serving career diplomat, both he and Petrovic, who began his diplomatic career in 2007, are close associates of Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic.

Bio Note: Petrovic

3. Vladimir Petrovic is currently the Serbian Deputy Chief of Mission in the United States, a position he has held since August 16, 2007. Prior to joining the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Petrovic lived and worked in the United States for several years. Petrovic has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Georgia. After completing his studies, Petrovic worked for two Atlanta law firms and CARE USA. He worked for Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich as director of personnel in 2003 and as deputy director of the Illinois Trade Office in 2004, and he served on Blagojevich's reelection campaign in 2006. He was also a fundraiser for various other campaigns, including the U.S. Senate election campaign of Barack Obama. He first joined the Foreign Affairs Ministry in June 2007 as a minister counselor in the Office of the Foreign Affairs Minister. He speaks fluent English.

Bio Note: Starcevic

4. Feodor Starcevic is currently Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs in the Foreign Affairs Ministry. He was born in 1942 in Split, Croatia and was raised in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. After completing law school at the University of Belgrade, he studied journalism in Zagreb, where he worked for the Vjesnik daily until 1967. He later trained as a lawyer in Sarajevo, from 1965-1967. He first joined the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia and served in the Division for the United States and Canada. He held various posts in the Foreign Affairs Secretariat and Yugoslavia's diplomatic missions. From 1992 to 1994, he was UN Chief Representative in Georgia, and from 1995 to 2004 he was Director of the UN Information Center in India. He retired in 2004 until Jeremic appointed him to his current position in 2007. He was also a member of the Kosovo negotiation team. He speaks fluent English and French.

Comment

15. Jeremic's habit of quickly promoting his close associates over other professional diplomats has earned him considerable unpopularity within the Ministry. The appointments of confidantes, however, are a signal that Jeremic has a personal interest in both deepening the relationship with the United States and using the United Nations to lobby for Serbia's International Court of Justice case. End Comment.

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